

Appln No. 10/542,392
Amdt date May 2, 2008
Reply to Office action of November 2, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A plant-cultivating device having a shape capable of receiving a plant body to be cultivated; ~~the device comprising, as at least a portion thereof, comprising:~~
a film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body; and
supply means for allowing water containing a fertilizer component or a biologically active substance to be contacted with the plant body through at least the film.
2. (Original) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film is one showing a difference in the electric conductivity (EC) in a water/saline solution system at the time of four days (96 hours) after the start of measurement is 4.5 dS/m or less, when the water and saline solution in the system are brought into contact through the film so that the water and saline solution face each other through the film.
3. (Previously Presented) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film is one showing a difference in concentration (Brix%) of water/glucose solution system at the time of three days (72 hours) after the start of measurement is 4 or less, when the water and glucose solution in the system are brought into contact through the film so that the water and glucose solution face each other through the film.
4. (Previously Presented) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film is one showing a peeling strength of 10 g or more with respect to the root of the plant body at the time of day 35 after the start of the cultivation of disposing the plant body at the inside (the opposite of the film side facing water) of the film.

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5. (Previously Presented) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film has a water impermeability of 10 cm or more in terms of water pressure resistance.
6. (Currently Amended) A plant-film integrate, comprising:
at least a plant body and a film which has substantially been integrated with the root of the plant body, wherein the film comprises a non-porous hydrophilic film.
7. (Original) A plant-cultivating method, comprising:
providing a plant-cultivating device having a shape capable of receiving a plant body to be cultivated, and comprising, as at least a portion thereof, a film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body; disposing the plant body in the device; and cultivating the plant body while allowing water containing a fertilizer component or a biologically active substance to be contacted with the plant body through at least the film.
8. (Original) A plant-cultivating method according to claim 7, wherein a plant-retaining support is disposed between the plant body and the film.
9. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body comprises a hydrophilic film.
10. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 9, wherein the hydrophilic film is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), cellophane, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, ethyl cellulose, and polyester.
11. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body has a thickness of about 5-200 μm .

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12. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body is laminated on a film of another material.

13. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film of another material comprises an unwoven fabric or a sponge having communicating pores, and is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyamide, polyvinyl alcohol, and cellulose.

14. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body comprises a non-porous film.

15. (New) A plant-cultivating device according to claim 1, wherein the film capable of being substantially integrated with the root of the plant body comprises a porous film.